

MARCH 1960

MAGAZINE OF THE



NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

PRICE 6d

SPASTICS NEWS



NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY CENTRES

NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CENTRES

THE THOMAS DELARUE SCHOOL

Dene Park, Tonbridge, Kent.
Telephone: Tonbridge 3859.

Principal:
H. B. Davies, Esq., B.Sc. (Econ.).

Chairman of the Board of Governors:
Douglas Delarue, Esq., J.P.

Secondary Modern and Grammar Education for Spastics of 11 years and over.
Accommodation: 60.

IRTON HALL SCHOOL

Holmrook, Cumberland.
Telephone: Holmrook 242.

Headmaster:
A. Lubran, Esq., M.R.S.T., A.A.O.T.

Chairman of the Management Committee:
J. D. Herd, Esq.

Education for Spastics reputed to be below average intelligence.
Accommodation: 32.

THE "SHERRARDS" TRAINING CENTRE

Digswell Hill, Welwyn, Herts.
Telephone: Welwyn Garden 2125.
Principal: E. L. Knight, Esq.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
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Vocational Training Centre for young adult Spastics.
Accommodation: 34, 2 Day Trainees.

HAWKSWORTH HALL

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Telephone: Menston 114.

Principal: J. D. Johnson, Esq.
Assessment Centre for Spastic children between 5 and 13 years.
Accommodation: 27.

DARESBURY HALL RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Daresbury, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.
Telephone: Moore 359.

Warden: F. W. Bellman, Esq.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
George Evans, Esq.
Residential Centre for Male Spastics aged from 16 to 35 years.
Accommodation: 23.

COOMBE FARM RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Oaks Road, Croydon, Surrey.
Telephone: Addiscombe 2310.

Warden: F. W. Bowyer, Esq., M.A.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
R. Meek, Esq.
Residential Centre for Spastics aged from 16 to 25 years. Accommodation: 38.

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Telephone: Kelvedon 482.
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Chairman of the Management Committee:
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Headmistress:
Mrs. C. M. Kearslake.

Chairman of the Management Committee:
Miss M. B. Jowett, M.B.E.

Primary Education for Spastics between 5 and 16 years.
Accommodation: 42.

THE WILFRED PICKLES SCHOOL

Tixover Grange, Duddington,
Nr. Stamford. Telephone: Duddington 212.

Headmaster:
R. A. Pedder, Esq.

Chairman of the Management Committee:
Eric Smith, Esq.

Primary Education for Spastics between 5 and 16 years.
Accommodation: 57, 12 Day Pupils.

LOCAL CENTRES AND CLINICS

In close co-operation with Local Authorities and/or Hospital Management Committees, the following Groups provide or assist special schools and/or treatment centres:

Hull	Portsmouth
Northampton	Reading
Nottingham	Southend-on-Sea
Pontefract	Swindon

Working independently, the following Groups have set up special schools or treatment centres:

Birkenhead	Leicester
Bolton	Plymouth
Cheltenham	Stockport

Operating entirely by voluntary contributions, the following Groups have treatment centres with or without nursery

classes. Some of these centres operate every day, others only part time:

Bedford	North Stafford
Bollington and Macclesfield	(Stoke)
Bridgwater	Norwich
Brighton	Oldham
Croydon	Oxford
Epping Forest	Poole and Bournemouth
Gillingham	South West Middlesex
Grimsby	South West Surrey
Ipswich	Swansea
Luton	Urmston
Maidstone	Wycombe and District
North London	York

The following Groups have, what might be termed, special occupation centres and,

in some cases, treatment is available together with speech therapy:

Cardiff	Ilford
Bristol	Scunthorpe
Crewe	Southampton
Dudley	Sale

What might be termed Welfare Departments, mainly designed to assist older Spastics, are operated by the following:

Bradford	Nottingham
Halifax	Widnes
N.W. London	

Work centres, varying in scope have been opened for adults by the following:

Croydon	N.W. Kent (Erith)
Central Middlesex	Stockport
Central Surrey	Swansea
Kingston-on-Thames	

A holiday home is run by Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Group.

SPASTICS NEWS, MARCH, 1960

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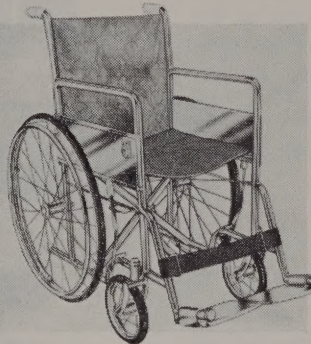
FRONT COVER

A picture taken from a scene in the N.S.S. new film "Jessy", which is shortly to be put on general release. The names of the two young stars are Katina Noble as Jessy and John Wainwright as her friend Michael. Michael helps Jessy to hold his puppy.

Please see Page 14 for full report and pictures.

If you need a Wheelchair—you need an EVEREST & JENNINGS

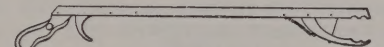
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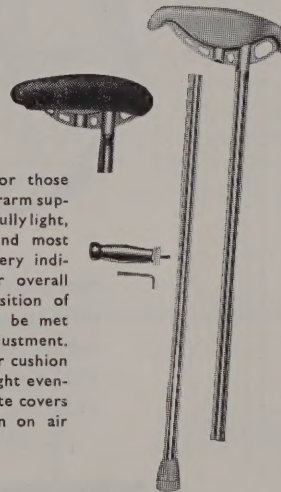
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FROM THE MAILBAG

THE RESTORATION

(1660)

Let us celebrate those statesmen,
Though three centuries have flown,
Who restored, in Sixteen Sixty,
Charles the Second to the Throne.
We detest upstart dictators,
As we made all haste to shew
When Cromwell's death delivered us,
Three hundred years ago.
We delight in long tradition.
In our country's crucial hour
We took apes into Gibraltar,
And brought ravens to the Tower
Of old London; for some seer,
So the rumour runs, once said
That Britannia would be vanquished
When those apes and ravens fled.
There are symbols still more sacred
And more dear to London town,
In the City's Guilds and Charters,
And her ancient Throne, and Crown,
And the lovely Queen who wears it,
Who serenely lives and moves
Among loyal, loving peoples
In the lands she serves and loves.
And the Crown has gained new glory,
Which could not have been foreknown
By those who, in Sixteen Sixty,
Brought King Charles back to the Throne.

From:

G. GORDON LISTER,
British Home for Incurables,
Crown Lane, Streatham, S.W.16.

(Thank you Gordon Lister for allowing our magazine to publish your poem which seems as if specially written to mark the recent Royal events.—Ed.)

A DIRECTOR'S PRAISE

Dear Editor,

I have asked that this letter be published in the SPASTICS NEWS in the hope that it may help and encourage other spastics, who are already or will be about to start a new life in employment, to realise that, dependent on their own real efforts, a bright future awaits them. It was received from Mr. S. J. Stanbrook, Director and General Manager of Ascot Gas Water Heaters Ltd., London:

"I have just been observing in our assembly shop floor the performance of Nicky Buck who you remember was originally trained by you to take a place in industrial life. Watching him walk through the shop I was astounded at the improvement in his general carriage, confidence and control in walking since the day he first joined us, and was prompted to make a more detailed enquiry into his work. The assembly shop superintendent tells me that the range of work that Nicky can now cover has increased beyond our most optimistic ideas and he is now assembling, on occasions, very small components well beyond what was originally expected of him. Furthermore, his speed of operation has increased to a considerable degree.

When we first employed him it was very much as a sympathetic gesture to make the best of what we could for

Nicky and to try and put into effect the training you had given to him. I expect the present improvement has been gradually taking place due to growing strength, growing confidence and general understanding of the work in hand, but believe me the improvement now is most marked in every way and is no longer a sympathetic gesture; he is beginning to take his place in his own right as a very useful member of our assembly shop. He is obviously still not as fast as our best employees but who knows if the rate continues he may still make even further progress.

I am so pleased with what I have carefully watched today that I felt I had to write to you in order that you also may be aware that all your hard work is definitely bearing fruit."

Yours sincerely,
(MR.) E. L. KNIGHT,
Principal,
Sherrards Training Centre.

CIRCUS MEETING

Dear Editor,

Having just arrived in this country from Australia, my wife and I thought that perhaps you might be interested to hear of our rather unusual introduction to your Society.

We had taken our two children to a matinee performance of Bertram Mills Circus and after the show found ourselves being helped with our younger daughter who is a spastic. Our surprise at this unexpected assistance increased when we discovered that we were amongst a party of spastic children and their mothers who had chosen that day to visit the circus.

Since then we have become enthusiastic members of the N.S.S. and our little girl has found many new playmates.

Yours sincerely,
(MR.) JOHN ROBERTS,
Fulham.

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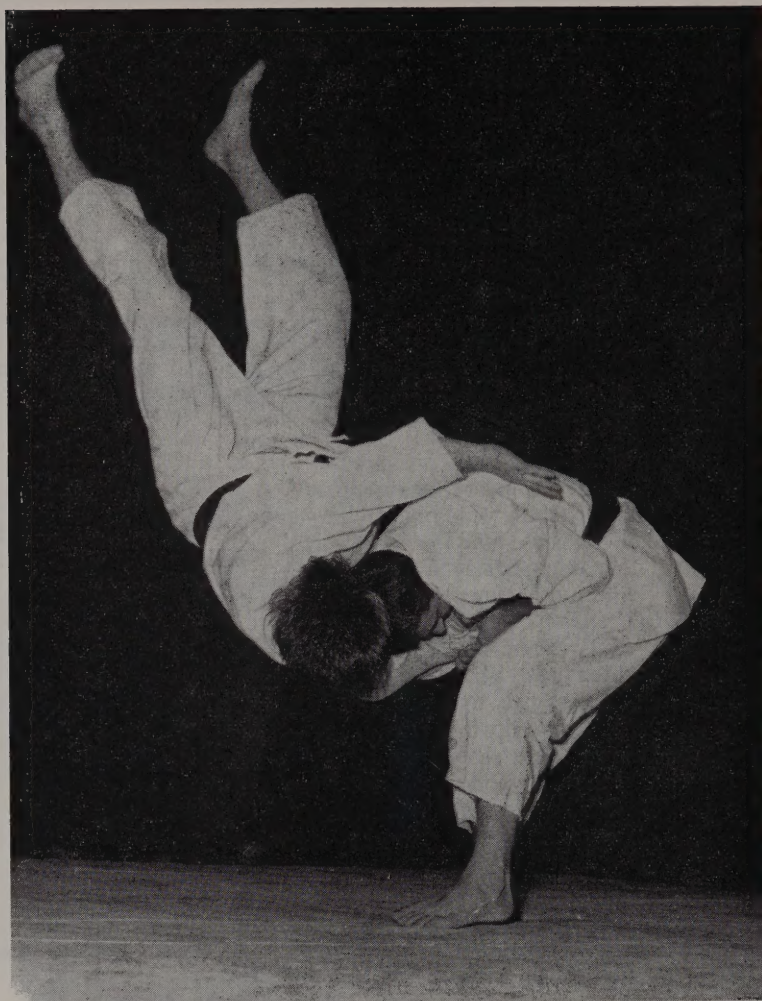
COUNTRY WIDE

★

FROM
OUR
ROVING
REPORTER

★

Truly a night of thrills and spills: thrills for the large crowds who turned up at Leyton Super Baths to see judo—the “gentle sport”—at its British best; spills for the top judoists in the country who took part in a display which was sponsored by Walthamstow Round Table in aid of the Spastic Dormobile Fund. Climax to the entertainment came with high-class demonstrations of throws and counter-throws and a final scrap between two of the experts. Presenting the prizes to the championship winners was Mr. C. V. Sales, chairman of Walthamstow Round Table.



Courtesy: Walthamstow Guardian

BRITISH COUNCIL FOR REHABILITATION

In conjunction with the University of St. Andrews the British Council for Rehabilitation will hold a three-day course and conference at Queen's College, Dundee, on “Rehabilitation—Its Industrial and Social Implications”, on March 29th, 30th and 31st. This conference is designed to meet the needs of industry, the hospital services, local government health and welfare services and the medical services generally. Subjects will include:

Results of the resettlement of spastics in the Eastern Region of Scotland.

B.M.A. ANNUAL MEETING

The 128th Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Torquay from Thursday, June 16th to Friday 24th, 1960, inclusive. It is 100 years since the last Annual Meeting was held at Torquay.

Programmes of medical films will be arranged and it is hoped to show the prize-winning films of the 1959 B.M.A. Film Competition. On each day of the Scientific Meeting, from the 21st-24th, there will be a programme of surgical and clinical demonstrations from the Torbay Hospital, shown by colour television on a closed circuit in the Town Hall. This will include a demonstration on the rehabilitation of spastic children by Dr. N. S. Alcock, Dr. H. R. Jolly and Dr. F. S. W. Brimblecombe.

I.C.I. MEN GIVE AWAY SAFETY BONUSES

Billingham workmen, who earned bonus awards of £43 10s. for working 600,000 hours without a lost time accident, decided to use the money to “help children who, by an accident of nature, are not able to enjoy good health and strength.”

So Mr. W. H. Adams, chairman of Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics, went to the power station at I.C.I.'s Billingham works to receive the money from Mr. P. Gallogly, secretary of the gas and power works boiler section safety committee.

Dr. P. W. Reynolds, deputy works manager, congratulating the men on their “splendid” record, commended the decision to donate the money to help spastics. He said, “If we by controlling our stupidity can maintain the gifts of health and strength and so earn some money, I can think of nothing better to do with it than to give it to those who have never had the pleasure of health and strength.” Though the money was “only a drop in the ocean” it was hoped that others would follow the example. Mr. Adams thanked the men and said that the treatment centre for spastics in the grounds of Mid-lesbrough General Hospital would be ready for occupation this year. A sum of £16,000 had been raised over six years. There would be room for 20-25 children in the clinic and they would receive the finest treatment possible under modern conditions.

DAY CENTRE FOR SOUTHEND

The Southend and District Society were delighted to announce to their members that a building has now been acquired for a permanent day centre. In the detached bungalow surrounded by a large garden it is hoped to provide all amenities for the adult and teen-age spastics. Plans include a Youth Club, Adult Club to pursue useful hobbies, and training for those seeking employment.

Their ultimate aim is to encourage everyone, however handicapped, to lead as normal a life as possible and they encourage their members to form their own committees. Sincere thanks are offered to all who have made the bungalow possible.

SHERRARDS AND THE CROSSING

Lady Bowes Lyon, chairman of the Sherrards Training Centre management committee, was quick to defend the Centre to readers of the local newspaper, *Welwyn Times*. She wrote:

"As much concern has been expressed in your columns on the dangers of handicapped people crossing the A.1 trunk road on Digswell Hill, the management committee has asked me to counteract any impression that it is unmindful of the hazards.

As long ago as October 1956, before the Centre was open, the Committee started negotiating with Highway Authorities for the construction of a bridge over the railway on the east side of the main road.

The Committee has never ceased to urge this.

It is only delayed now awaiting the Ministry of Transport's decision on the future alignment and widening of the A.1 road at that point. If anyone has means of hastening this decision, which we are told will take months, they will be rendering a good service.

In the meantime, to lessen the danger, a footpath has been constructed to where the road is clear of a bend, and trainees given strict instructions on where to cross in either direction. A request for a road sign warning has been refused by the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation.

The whole object of the Centre is to fit the young people for normal life, even with its day to day hazards, and to train them where possible to hold a job in open industry. For this they must develop a sense of independence."

MODEL RAILWAY

A model electric railway layout, made by Mr. J. D. Pressman of Shirley, was presented to Carlson House School, Birmingham. This is the third railway he has built for the centres. The layout was handed over to the Birmingham Lion Club—an organisation of businessmen which helps the needy and handicapped—during the club's annual dinner at Sutton Coldfield.

MEMORIAL HOME

A Bradford man, Mr. Arthur Clark, who before his death last September was an unflagging worker for the Society, is to have his memory perpetuated by the setting up of a spastics' home in the city. The news is announced in the 1960 year book of the Bradford and District branch, of which Mr. Clark was founder member, the first secretary and, finally, vice-chairman.

"He had a long cherished hope that a residential home for older spastics—for whom very few facilities seemed to be available—would one day be formed in Bradford," it is stated. "As a memorial to Mr. Clark, the executive committee recently inaugurated a trust fund to be known as the Arthur Clark Memorial Home for Adult Spastics Fund." Four trustees have been appointed and a holding of £647 12s. 10d. 3½ per cent. Treasury Stock 1979-81 has been purchased to launch the project. Mr. J. W. Hall, branch treasurer said that roughly £5,000 would be needed. Bradford Lions Club—of which Mr. Clark was a member—were joining in the effort to raise money, and the home when it was opened would be called Lion House. Residents will be "older spastics who have no means of support" who will be able to "live together in a comfortable and secure existence."

NEW S.O.S. MEMBERS

Young readers of all ages will be delighted to know that Cliff Richard the well-known "pop" singer and his manager, Tito Burns, have been elected members of the committee of the Stars' Organisation for Spastics.



Courtesy: *Jewish Chronicle*
Ravenswood Medical Centre—Artist's Impression

MEDICAL CENTRE AT RAVENSWOOD

Over £62,000 for the establishment of a medical centre for mentally retarded Jewish children who are also spastics was raised at a dinner and dance held by the Jewish Association to Aid Backward Children. This is believed to be a record amount ever collected for an Anglo-Jewish charitable cause at a single gathering. A number of non-Jewish firms were among the contributors.

The centre is to have 40 places for bed-ridden children. A specially equipped van, costing £1,000 would be provided to take the children from one place to another. It is hoped to start building the new centre at Ravenswood in the spring and to open it in 1961.

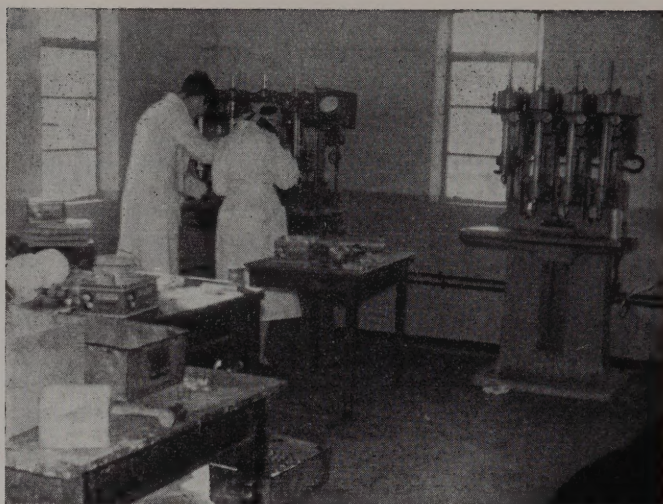
The Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society is affiliated to, and works in close co-operation with, the National Spastics Society. Its President is the Bishop of Kensington.

In 1952, a meeting was called by three parents of spastic children living in Middlesex. The primary object was to bring together as many spastics and parents of spastic children as possible. Monthly meetings of members and friends have been held since the Society's inception and innumerable talks from qualified people and social activities, as well as appeals, have been arranged.

After considerable thought, it was decided that a local training centre and sheltered workshop should be established. Exhaustive efforts were made to secure a plot of land or suitable building in a fairly central position and many difficulties were encountered, such as planning restrictions and the high prices demanded but finally, in 1957, negotiations with the M.C.C. resulted in the Society being granted a tenancy of a single storey nursery building at Acol Crescent, South Ruislip, and the adjoining land.

The Centre started with only four girls and four boys who worked at basket and jewellery making and painted dolls' houses. However, none of this work was very satisfactory either from their point of view, as they were not paid, nor from that of the final product which did not reach a very high standard.

When the Centre had been in existence for a year an industrial toolmaker and an industrial



Two employees working at the spindle drilling machines making swivels for carburettors

Central Middlesex WORK CENTRE

nurse joined the Society to look after the welfare of the employees and improve the scope of their work. Mr. F. Wells, although he had never supervised a sheltered workshop, immediately took charge and bought four fly-presses. Mrs. J. Trowsdale watches over the employees' health and comfort and, as she describes herself, is a "girl-Friday".

For about nine months a most intricate structure occupied all the employees—they had to carefully solder 8,000 resistances on to a framework to be used in computers for the E.M.I.

Now, however, they have obtained a sub-contract from a local factory, Messrs. Bankside Products, which makes accessories for motor-cars, and in one of the rooms the fly presses are back in action with the workers manufacturing small lamp shades and lamp holders. A second room holds four spindle drilling machines at each of which two people can be placed. Though the work of making swivels for carburettors can be very dirty, the girls work as well as the men and take no notice of their oily hands smothered in grime but the visitor will observe that they do keep their hair well away from the spatters of the machine and tie gaily coloured scarves around their heads.

At the present time 19 young people are employed in the Centre, half of them girls. They come from quite a wide radius, from Chiswick, Acton, Stanmore, Edgware, Kingsbury,



Part of the workshop showing the fly-presses in operation

Lunch time at the Centre



Carpenters Park and Isleworth, but the Society's minibus transports them at no cost to and from their homes. Each person is paid £1 per week and is able to enjoy a free meal cooked on the premises. Very close co-operation prevails and the atmosphere is stimulating and progressive. During their lunch hour, like many workers in factories all over the country, they play cards, though they were quick to remark that they certainly weren't gamblers and no-one played for money! The independence which they show has even struck their parents and friends who are naturally thrilled at their headway.

The oldest employee is Mr. Ken Eckendhal, who is 49. The youngest is Brian Rayner, 17, who has been with the Centre for six months. Before that time he was helping with a milk round. For Denis Clowes, 22, this is his first job but 21-year-old Peter Beckett can boast two previous jobs, one as general help in a garage and the other as a painter of artificial coals on electric fires. When he was asked whether he had given up the latter work because of his aesthetic ideals he grinned and said, "The firm gave me the sack because they found me a liability." Unfortunately this is an oft heard statement amongst our members.

Four more employees will be joining the Centre shortly as it can be expanded to cope with 30-50 people. In the future it is hoped to obtain permission for building another workshop on the adjoining site, so that about 200 people could be accommodated. The new workshop would be under the same conditions as a normal factory and the existing premises used

as a training centre, part of which would act as an occupational centre for the people who could not work a machine.

A visit to the kitchen enables the visitor to sniff the appetising aroma of good cooking and meet the Centre's favourite people. Yes, the cooks of course. Two housewives whose previous experience was limited to catering for their families now provide excellent and delicious meals for the hard-working employees. Mrs. Irene Wells, wife of the Supervisor, and Mrs. Mary Holford start at nine in the morning and finish at about 1.30 to 2 p.m. each day, shopping very carefully at the local stores.

A very attractive red rubber flooring has been laid which not only adds to the pictorial warmth of the kitchen but saves feet from becoming chilled on the cold stone floor. Washing up can be easily finished with hot water from a Creda Corvete.

Despite the fact that the Central Middlesex Society is not going to build any centres in Spain, the cooks were not averse to hearing of a new dish to prepare for the employees—a Spanish paella made very economically with rice and practically every tasty ingredient thrown in!

Apart from the essential staff at the Centre, the whole of the Society's activities are conducted by its Honorary Officers, members and friends. Although difficulties are great and problems varied the Society will not fail to carry on its good work. Its progress is being followed by other groups and it is hoped will lead to the establishment of similar Centres throughout the country.

N.S.S. and B.C.W.S. ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR HOUSEPARENTS

Houseparents will attend a four day conference on Caring for Children with Cerebral Palsy which is organised by the N.S.S. and the B.C.W.S. The conference takes place at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Herts, on March 21st-25th.

People attending are asked to bring with them any small aids or gadgets which they have found particularly useful during their care of handicapped children. A room is being set aside for the display of these exhibits which will be of the greatest interest to other members of the conference.

Discussion groups and film showings will play a prominent part in the programme which includes the following talks:

"Children's Needs"

by Dr. Marion Mackenzie,
The Tavistock Clinic,
London, W.1.

"Emotional Needs of Children with Cerebral Palsy"

by Dr. E. M. Creak,
Consultant in Psychological Medicine,
Hospital for Sick Children,
Great Ormond Street.

"Practical Problems—Dressing, Feeding, Bathing, etc."

by Miss M. A. Lane, M.A.O.T., and
Miss J. E. Oliver, M.C.S.T.,
Thomas Delarue School.

"What do Children expect from their Parents?"

by Miss N. Gibbs,
Consultant Psychologist,
Child Guidance Training Centre,
London.

"Early Infant Play"

by Mrs. Goldschmeid.

"Children with Cerebral Palsy—Medical Aspects"

by Dr. M. Wilson,
Ministry of Education.

"Co-operating with the Treatment Staff"

by Miss N. Culloty, M.C.S.P.,
Percy Hedley School,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

A Brains Trust will conclude the meetings to consider matters brought forward by the Discussion Groups and questions from individual members of the conference arising out of any of the sessions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Halifax: A concert given by the Halifax-born singer, Miss Margaret Rose, at Siddal Cricket Club on behalf of the Halifax and District Spastics Association realised £20, of which £9 10s. was collected at the concert and 10 gns. given by the club.

Oban, Argyllshire: As the result of a series of Saturday night dances organised by Mr. P. Douglas, the sum of £11 10s. has been forwarded to the Spastic Children's Fund. M.C. at the functions was Mr. A. Fletcher (junr.).

Bristol: The Bristol public are to be given further opportunities of seeing what the city is doing for 300 spastics—thanks to a film made by the Bristol Ciné Society. Immediately after the Health Committee saw the film of the work done at Bristol Education Committee's special school, Claremont, Henleaze, they agreed to buy a copy for health educational purposes. The film, in colour, complete with commentary and background music, runs for about 15 minutes.

Hastings: Mr. J. M. G. Gabriel, chairman of the East Sussex Group of the N.S.S., says that they have opened a Social Centre each Friday at Sidley Community Centre, Ninfield Road, with a children's session from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. and adults from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and will be delighted to welcome any spastics in this area and their friends. Any offers of help, toys, games, books, etc., will be greatly appreciated. Transport can be arranged and anybody requiring this should contact Mr. Gabriel at Wood Place, Whatlington, Battle.

Swindon: Open to everyone in the family, living in or around Swindon, is a grand "Make-a-Cake" contest. There are two sections, one open to everybody with a prize of two £5 gift vouchers to be spent anywhere in Swindon and the other open to mother and daughter (or son) teams with a prize of a £10 gift voucher to be spent between the two. Mrs. M. E. Carter, chairman of the Swindon Spastics Society, will be attending the judging and will accept the cakes entered on behalf of the spastic children of Swindon—and she will see that they all get a share.

South Shields: On behalf of the South Shields Spastic Children Welfare Organisation Miss Winifred Dodds, of 2 White Smocks Avenue, Durham, in a letter to the local newspaper, expressed the members' appreciation of those people who had contributed in any way to the Organisation's progress. There was still a great need for voluntary workers who were willing to devote one or two hours a week, at their centre at 2 Wood Terrace, looking after the children and any lady who was interested in such work would be made most welcome if she called on a Monday, Tuesday or Friday in any week between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the centre is open.

Twelve-year-old Margaret Marks was one of the three Wallsend school children who won money prizes in a

nation-wide children's painting competition organised by the Friends of Spastics' League.

Barrow-in-Furness: A capacity audience at the first night of Walney St. Mary's Players' production, "The Girl Friend" were treated to a bright and breezy performance. "The Girl Friend", a full-length musical comedy, is a new venture for the players whose first production last year was a pantomime. Half of the proceeds went to the Furness and District Spastics Society.

Cockermouth: The Cockermouth Branch of the Cumberland and Westmorland Spastics Association was "in the red" financially when it started operations on January 1st. A month later it had a balance of over £60—which was pretty good going. Thanks were due to a whist drive organised by Mrs. Marley of Harrot Road and a coffee morning organised by Mrs. Olive Richardson of Castle-gate Drive. The main February event was a film show at the Derwent Centre.

Hanley: Alderman A. E. Bennett, of the North Staffordshire Spastics Association, who recently made a radio appeal on their behalf, is a patient in the City General Hospital. Many letters containing donations have followed his appeal and this has cheered him considerably.

Sussex: Ross Calton, P.R.O. to Gilbert Rice Ltd., in a recent letter to the magazine *Farm and Country*, said, "Up and down the country there must be hundreds of obsolete tractors, in nettle-beds and at the back of machinery sheds. During the autumn we featured an 'old pensioner' in an advertisement with the caption, 'We don't sell tractors like this—we give them away to schools, clubs, and other deserving causes'." As a result, they received nearly 50 requests for a "free tractor" from schools in all parts of the country. However, this give-away scheme has now outpaced their resources and although several farmers have offered give-away tractors, many more are needed. If farmers contact Mr. Calton he will be very pleased to forward the name of a "good cause" in their district.

Newton Abbot: Members of Newton Abbot Auxiliary, who work untiringly to help the less fortunate, received a pat on the back from Mr. Arthur Vos (Smith's Potato Crisps), when he presided at the annual banquet in Torquay. He said, "We are amazed at the wonderful way in which auxiliaries, all over the country, raise money for charity." Councillor A. H. W. Edworthy, J.P., chairman of Newton Abbot Urban Council, was presented with a cheque for the Spastic Children's Fund.

Bournemouth: Ingenious devices made to help local spastic children were described to members of Poole Soroptimist Club by Mrs. M. Nix-James, who is responsible for the teaching of children at the new Wallisdown centre. A special sandal was made for the foot of a boy who could

not use his hands. A magnet was attached to the sole and by means of this he was able to pick up letters from the floor and form them into words. Other children similarly handicapped had been taught to type by grasping a padded stick and then hitting the keys. They were now able to type simple letters and essays. Old and heavy typewriters were essential for this and Mrs. Nix-James appealed for unwanted machines to be sent to the centre. They would fulfil a very useful function, she stressed.

Bermondsey: Eighteen-year-old Joan Cooper is the first member of the Girl Guides' Association in London to win a silver badge in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme. Joan has helped a group of Bermondsey pensioners and a spastic boy for a year.

Barnsley: The Barnsley and District Association of the National Spastics Society has now reached over £2,800 in its £5,000 Building Fund Appeal.

Leeds: The work of 18 Leeds charities is to be shown in an outside exhibition to be held in Leeds during June. This is the result of a meeting held in Leeds University Union between representatives of the charities and the Leeds Students' Charity Rag Committee. One of the participants will be the N.S.S.

Chesterfield: 150 guests heard praise for the work of Chesterfield and District Spastics Society, which raised £16,000 for the new day centre for spastic children, from the Mayor of Chesterfield (Ald. J. L. Hadfield) when he spoke at the fifth annual dinner of the Society. The centre would be opened in Abercrombie Street, Chesterfield, and he paid tribute to all who had helped the Society raise the money. Mr. George Kenning, president of the Society, said that many people had at first thought the target of £10,000 unobtainable, but the Society had succeeded in raising a further £6,000. He appealed for further support of the centre, as it is estimated to cost more than £3,000 a year to run. The Secretary, Mr. M. H. Boone, said later that it was hoped to take about 20 children a day on a two- or three-day a week basis.

Preston: Preston Spastics Group have already raised £4,000 towards the cost of their proposed new centre. Mr. Ronald Parkinson, chairman of the group, said, "One of the most important considerations in having our own centre is that we

could separate adult and child spastics. It is important that the young adult spastic is not made to feel he or she is being treated like a child."

Birmingham: The new Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, Mrs. Bertha Boughton, is a grandmother. The local Spastics Societies will be pleased to know that she hopes to learn many things about the spastics, as she feels there is so much that can be done to help.

Skipton: At a recent speech day it was reported that great advances in the academic sphere had been made at Keighley Technical Secondary School and many extra-curricular activities had received encouraging patronage. The school had contributed to the N.S.S.

Bridgwater: The Spastic Pools Social Club recently held their annual dinner and dance. Alderman Mr. G. N. Hayball, J.P., gave a very interesting account of local efforts on behalf of spastics.

Burnley: Mr. John Suthren of Burnley, who is a member of Blackburn Spastics Society, is interested in the possibility of forming a Burnley Spastics Society. Help is kindly promised by both the Blackburn and the National Society should a decision be made to form a local group. All who are interested are cordially invited to contact him at 561 Brunshaw Road, Burnley.

Sale: Has any kind reader a musical box of any type for which they have no further use? Mrs. Stockdale, of the Sale and Altrincham District Spastics Society, would be extremely grateful to hear from anyone who has one for disposal. This is for the use of the children in her Society, who "respond to music very quickly."

THERE ARE NO
CRISPS
TO EQUAL
SMITH'S
FOR QUALITY AND FLAVOUR

5TH EMPLOYMENT ASSESSMENT COURSE



The minibus, in which the young people were taken to visit eight factories and offices as well as on various sightseeing trips, is a fitting background for a photo. From left to right: The Manager of Colwall Court, Mr. G. H. Marsh, the Housemother, Mrs. A. Harrington, with Rosemary Yearley and Michael Lock (right) and a visitor from the London Office of the N.S.S., Miss Vivien Selway, who looks eager to go for a spin

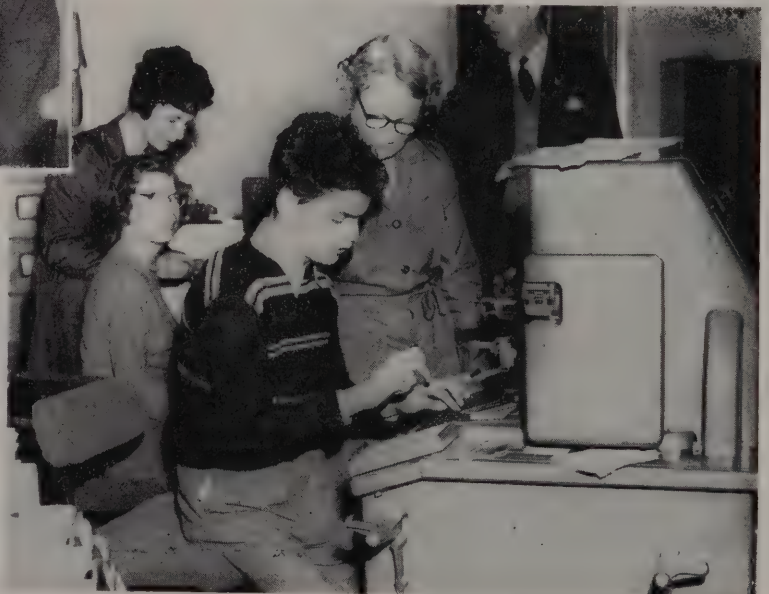


Miss Shirley Keene, telephone in hand, demonstrates its use to four of the students. Miss Keene is well-known as one of the Society's lecturers. From left to right: Michael Bewsey, Lesley Coulson, Leslie Jessie, Marlene Probert



A crowd of boys, all of whom hope to go to Sherrards, are absorbed in the demonstration of a Wolf Power Drill manned by Mr. S. T. Allman, the Assistant Employment Officer. From left to right. Stanley Sibley, Paul Cowley, Ernest Jones, David Flack, Michael Pearson

In the office of the Hastings and Thanet Building Society, Robert Harron tries out the Addressograph plate printing machine. Lesley Coulson watches. The staff were particularly helpful and the students were able to see exactly what it would be like to work in an office





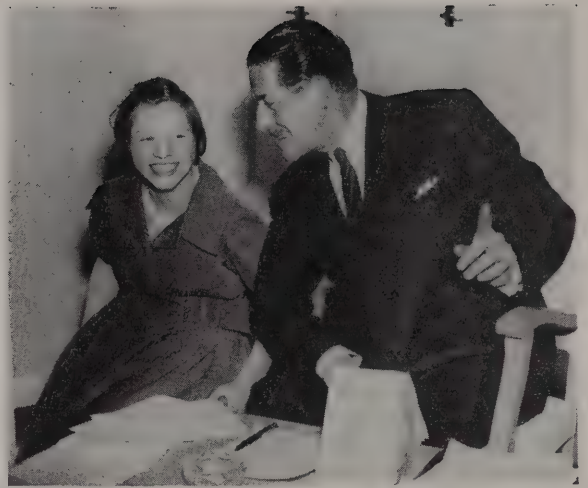
Above:

Our prize picture—

The young curate drinks his tea with virtuous disapproval but his Arab "convert" laughs in his face. The latest news from home doesn't interest him and our poor clown looks sadly on

Michael Pearson and Pauline Shemmans both won first prize for the best fancy dress and Lesley Coulson, as a paper-seller, was the runner-up. Many of the party-goers thought that Mr. W. C. M. Hargreaves, the industrial liaison officer, had deserted them, but he was right amongst the throng all the time. Yes, it is he who is hiding under the dunce's—oh, beg pardon, sir—clown's cap

at Colwall Court
Bexhill-on-Sea



Above: Pauline Shemmans, one of the challengers in the "What's My Line" panel game, chats with Eamonn Andrews' alias, star, Leslie Mitchell who was in the chair. Judging by the smile on her face Pauline looks as if she's going to win a certificate. In fact her stay at Bexhill had an added thrill. Born in Warwick, Pauline had never seen the sea. At the earliest opportunity she went down to the beach and stared at that great expanse of water for the first time in her life



And here they all are at the end of the party. Miss Morgan, our employment officer, who made the course so interesting, did not have to do the cooking as well (see top left-hand corner). "Luckily enough," she said, "with those appetites!" And those smiles—they outmatched the brilliance of the photographer's flash bulb!



THE CAMPAIGN OF "UNDERSTANDING"

JESSY

It was what we call a short film shown in the afternoon to a special audience. That kind of event is not usually sufficient to drive even a beginner in journalism to the nearest telephone box. However, telephone boxes are never free in the West End of London and what was taking place in the Hammer Theatre, Wardour Street, deserved far more than just a report.

The film takes its title from the heroine's name and undoubtedly is an excellent foundation to the long term (ten years') campaign of our Society to bring closer its inner problems to the non-spastic world. And whoever holds the slightest disapproval of the cinema as an advantage to education, would agree that here the film industry and in particular Mr. George Minter of Renown Pictures Corporation Ltd., who has so generously offered to distribute the film free of charge and give the entire returns to the N.S.S., and Miss Margaret K. Johns, the producer, with her company, Libertas Films, have proved to be of immense value.

The greatest difficulty for our Society, which is basically humanitarian and philanthropic, is to explain to the outsider his role and duty—as a fellow man and moral seeking citizen—to the handicapped, who by complete coincidence is forced to lead a rather more difficult life.

The fact that a human being is more sensitive and feels certain situations more deeply is definitely an advantage and not a pitiful facet of his personality. Nobody on this earth would dare say that an artist of great depth and feeling needs sympathy—what he does need, if anything, is understanding. If he doesn't get it in his own lifetime, which often happens, it does not indicate in the slightest his lack of talent and ability. The campaign of "understanding" has been launched with "Jessy".

Jessy is a nine years old spastic child confined to a wheelchair. She is faced with a two-edged problem, on the one side being handicapped and not being able to behave in the same way as ordinary children and on the other the loneliness of a child in an adult's world. To her help of course rush her parents who devote much of their time and attention to Jessy's welfare, and upbringing. Fortunately for Jessy she joins a special school and under the guidance of her therapists and teacher acquires more confidence and takes a more active part in her environment.

A situation spiced with dramatic action causes her to rebel against her school and she is again thrown into a momentary life of solitude. Her devoted teacher who takes much pains with her, succeeds in altering her strained attitude to life caused by petty prejudices. The statement made in the film—"Try and think of your whole life as an adventure—little things that are ordinary to most people, that they don't even think about, can be exciting for you to do. Then, you won't mind if things go wrong sometimes, and you won't try to run away from them. You must not ever do that. You must always keep on trying and suddenly one day you find you can do something you thought you couldn't", could be used as a rather long motto.

Looking at it all with the naked eye it was definitely an enjoyable afternoon—ignoring the weather outside the theatre. The film fulfils its object and great hope is attached to its impact on the public. Even if one heart in a thousand would be awakened by its message, the expenditure, time and devotion will have been fully proved and justified.

EDITOR.

THE GROWN-UPS

DONALD HOUSTON.....The Teacher
MAUREEN PRYOR.....Jessy's Mother
WILLIAM PEACOCK.....Jessy's Father
PRUDENCE HYMAN.....A Neighbour
CHARLES LLOYD PACK..Pet Shop Man

Screenplay by SETH HOLT and WOLF
RILLA from an idea by ROSEMARY
DAWSON SHEPHERD.

Produced by MARGARET K. JOHNS

CAST

THE CHILDREN

John Wainwright
Geraldine Neyle Brian Taylor
Billy Lawrence John Bush
and Katina Noble as Jessy.

Music composed by

FRANZ REIZENSTEIN

Conducted by MUIR MATHEISON

Directed by WOLF RILLA



Above:
Her new classmates greet Jessy enthusiastically when she is introduced to them by their teacher. It is Jessy's first day at the special school

Right:
Training her to have control over her right hand takes many months of hard work, and here Jessy is seen concentrating on an exercise

Below:
After a successful gang war, the young visitors march triumphantly away from the battlefield. For Jessy, who at last has managed to hold her friend Rose's baby brother and is now a useful member of the gang, it was a victory indeed



Reports in the press were very favourable and here's what some of them say:

The Times—"Jessy . . . makes the point quite clearly that the spastic child in the story is, though disabled . . . not 'sick'. The incidents are well chosen . . . Katina Noble as Jessy . . . has so much conviction about her that with few words to say it in she says all that is necessary."

News of the World—"In a psychological attempt to condition the public to a proper regard for spastics in modern society a 30-minute featurette titled 'Jessy' will soon be seen on the screens of the two major cinema networks throughout the country. But it



isn't a documentary in the usual sense of the word."

The Daily Mail—"Critics acclaimed Katina as Britain's newest film star."

Kinematograph Weekly—"That deserving organisation the N.S.S. is receiving the generous help of George Minter, of Renown, and producer Margaret K. Johns."

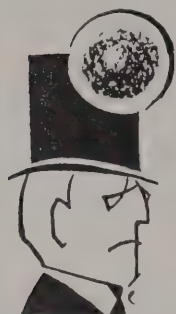
Daily Cinema—"It is a simple and touching story of a little girl who is a spastic. It 'fulfils very nicely' the object of the N.S.S."

AT SIXES AND SEVENS

By CLEMENT FREUD

*Published by kind permission of
the "Observer"*

(THE SUNDAY FOOTBALL CONTROVERSY ★)



An increasing number of young people in this country feel that after five and a half days of work it is unreasonable to be expected to cram a whole week's recreation into Saturday afternoon and kick your heels on Sunday.

On the other hand, Mr. Harold Legerton, secretary of the Lord's Day Observance Society, states with an air of belligerent righteousness that the seventh day is solely for prayer and meditation: there are six other days for recreation of the body, Sunday is for the recreation of the spirit.

As a result of his Society's information, Manchester Police on Tuesday prosecuted the organisers of a Sunday charity football match in aid of the National Spastics Society at which admission was charged. The magistrate imposed fines totalling £25. The Sunday Observance Act of 1780 forbids charges for live entertainment. Until the law is changed, there will be no professional sport on that day.

The amateurs, however, come out in force Sunday after Sunday. Cricket, tennis and golf have become recognised Sunday sports, and many a vicar's wife pours tea in the interval between innings, sets or rounds. Yet soccer on a Sunday, the subject of much thought and discussion of the Football Association, is still in a very difficult position.

During the war, in accordance with the general wishes of the Coalition Government, the F.A. relaxed its peace-time

ban on Sunday football. Although at the end of the war a number of motions were put forward to legalise the Sunday game, none ever got as far as a vote, and it was not until 1951 that rumours of mass non-compliance with its directives prompted the Association to conduct a nation-wide inquiry.

"Does Sunday football exist in your area?" each county football association was asked. "Is it organised?"

The result of the inquiry, announced the following March, showed that there were 2,547 clubs playing regular Sunday football and a total of 73 organised leagues.

Although the Sunday ban was lifted in respect of Territorial Army teams, it was not until 1954 that a resolution was put to the meeting of chairmen and secretaries "That the rules be amended in such a way as to permit county associations to accept clubs who through force of circumstance were forced to play football on a Sunday." The motion was defeated, northern representatives voting fairly solidly against, while the majority of southerners were in favour.

Finally, at the annual general meeting of 1955 the rules were amended to "permit players to take part in Sunday football without penalty." While this meant the end of players being fined 5s. (and promising not to do it again) by their county F.A., it still meant that on a Sunday no club affiliated to the F.A. could play in its own name, on its own ground, or under the control of a referee who was on the county F.A. books. That is the position at the moment.

More recent surveys have shown that Sunday football is on the increase and there are now around 1,500 clubs playing in the London district alone.

There is nothing wanton or irreligious about their members, and it is time that they had not only the sanction of the F.A. but the right to play openly on F.A. grounds and be refereed by F.A. officials.

Instances like Mr. Alan Harris, of Essex, refereeing Sunday games as Mr. Alan Harrison and drawing the attention of the national Press to this lunacy can only help to ridicule a body that should be respected.

It is up to the Football Association to act without delay, not only for the good of the game but also to uphold its own sliding prestige.

ECHOES FROM THE PRESS

Bernard Bresslaw

"People in show business have only Sunday in which to have some recreation. All the time feel that it is a good thing to enjoy ourselves and help somebody at the same time. Nobody—even the organiser—received any payment for putting on the matches."

"Daily Express"

Sir: We are 14 R.A.F. men nauseated by the efforts of the Lord's Day Observance Society to kill Sunday football matches organised for charity. When that organisation can do as much for a worthy cause as the "Show-Biz XI" does for the spastics, then it can stand up and crow.

C. R. Chatfield (and 13 others),
Royal Air Force, Duxford, Cambs.

"Daily Sketch"

Sir: We read with disgust of the fine imposed on the soccer team of TV Stars who turned out to help spastic children on Sunday. The people who instigated this call themselves the Lord's Day Observance Society. In our opinion only the devil could see wrong in helping the helpless on Sunday.

Two shorthand typists, Wimbledon.

"The Evening News"

Sir: There's jubilation in the Lord's Day Observance Society. They have succeeded in having the organisers of a Sunday football match fined for putting on a football match whose sole purpose was to help spastics. The argument that Sunday sport keeps people away from church is ludicrous. If you start with sport, where do you stop? Why not ban Sunday TV? Or make a "no-gardening-before-noon" rule? Come football matches, firework displays or pole-squatting marathons, those of us who want to go to church will go. The answer is to have the law changed—and quickly. And perhaps

the officials of the Lord's Day Observance Society will stop to ponder the plight of spastics.

Tony Heath, Redhill, Surrey.

"Eastern Evening News"

Sir: May I express my profound disgust and contempt of that so-called religious body the Lord's Day Observance Society. When I read of a charity football match played by young TV stars in order to raise funds for the spastic organisation, giving their Sundays, not to mention a certain amount of travelling, and then being subjected to a fine and ridiculed by this body it is beyond my understanding.

In my opinion the L.D.O.S. would have brought credit, and not discredit on themselves if they were to sponsor and not jeopardise such charitable attempts for the benefit of spastics and such like institutions.

Incidentally, when one realises the amount which has been raised in two years by these TV stars, it leaves me with one thought: Carry on with the good work, lads, keep it up; you are doing a fine job!

Robert S. Green, Wodehouse St., Norwich.

LESLIE WISE, manager of the All Stars

"I don't think the Almighty will think any the worse of us for what we are doing or what we have done in the past. In the last ten months £8,000 and £10,000 had been raised for Colwell Court, Bexhill, and this year they were hoping to raise enough money to build a swimming pool in the gardens.

"In all our matches proceeds are divided equally between the S.O.S. and a local charity. We are prepared to pay the fine—and the team are 100 per cent. behind us. We have several members of the Church behind us—and that in itself makes a mockery of the Society's action."

LORD'S DAY OBSERVANCE SOCIETY

Mr. Harold Legerton, secretary of the Society: "If the 'All Stars' try to play again on a Sunday I will do everything I can to stop them. This lawlessness must be stamped out."

IMPARTIAL VIEWPOINT

The Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. F. Bancroft Turner: "The 'Stars' can do what they like if they pass the hat round or charge people to go out."

★ EDITOR'S COMMENT

It is rather a pity that football has scored in the competition of giving Sunday its deserved importance.

What do you think of it all?

The address of the SPASTICS NEWS as you probably remember is 28 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, and I should be pleased to hear your views.

SPASTICS NEWS, MARCH, 1960

The Employment Department's Communiqué...

The Employment Department is once again glad to announce that the following young people have obtained work:—

Geoffrey Cole, from **South East London**, is now working as a clerk/messenger.

David Conlon, of **Salisbury**, is in training as an agricultural worker.

John Drew, of **Southall, Middx.**, is now employed at Park Royal Remploy factory as a Tickopres operator.

Roy Dumenil, of **North Harrow**, has obtained work as a messenger with the National Spastics Society.

Pamela Evans, from **Leicester**, who attended the Assessment Course, has now obtained employment with a local firm packing woollen goods.

Eric France, from **Stockport**, has moved to Cheltenham and has been found employment with Dowty Seals.

Robert Hall, from **Durham**, moved down to London and after Tickopres training has obtained employment with a firm in South-East London. He assembles small electrical units when not operating the Tickopres machine.

Graham Heath, from **Oughtibridge**, is now working in a mineral water firm.

Clodagh Johnson has been employed in a sheltered workshop since last November.

Raymond Milford, from **Plymouth**, is now working in the Civil Service as a clerical officer in a County Court.

Brian Pearce has also been placed with Dowty Seals. **Gillian Talbot** has been accepted for training with Dr. Barnardo's.

Society for Music Therapy and Remedial Music ONE DAY CONFERENCE

on

MUSIC THERAPY in the EDUCATION of the CHILD

on SATURDAY, 30th APRIL, 1960

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, Malet St., London, W.C.1

The programme will include:

Talks and Discussions on the use of music in the education of the mentally handicapped, the physically handicapped and the emotionally disturbed child, with emphasis on mental health.

Demonstrations of method.

Display of educational and therapeutic material.

Exhibition of children's work.

Conference fee: 5/-

Further information to be obtained from: Miss JULIETTE ALVIN, *Hon. Secretary*, 6 Westbourne Park Rd., London, W.2

Page Seventeen

REPORT FROM THE PALACE

by our special correspondent

The birth of our new Prince which was announced after long expectation, and the engagement of the Princess which on the other hand was released with great surprise, were the national highlights of recent weeks.

Let our warm congratulations and happy wishes join in the worldwide wave of enthusiasm.

On behalf of the National Spastics Society, a telegram of congratulations was delivered to the Palace at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, February 19th, 1960:

"THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY WITH HUMBLE DUTY SEND TO THEIR PRESIDENT LOYAL GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS."

And was speedily acknowledged by the telegram which we are proud to reproduce below.

Charges to pay
RECEIVED

POST OFFICE
TELEGRAM

Prefix, Time landed is, Office of Origin and Service Instructions, Words.

At 71
From B171 1.35 BUCKINGHAM PALCE 37
To
By THE DIRECTOR NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY 28 FITZROY
SQUARE W1

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE KIND MESSAGE WHICH YOU
HAVE SENT ON BEHALF OF YOUR CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS ON THE BIRTH OF MY SON -
PHILIP ++

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TEL 28 W1 + RT" or call with this form Ber C
at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accom... ind, if possible, the envelope.

PEGS KNITS FOR ROYAL BABY

Gifts started to pour into the Palace long before the birth of Her Majesty's new baby. These comprised beautifully-made clothes of all descriptions and other articles necessary for a newborn child. Our Society contributed to this frank public expression by sending a white knitted matinee coat and no doubt Her Majesty found no difficulty in recognising the style by the way it was made. This was not the first time that Pegs O'Bryne, a young spastic woman from Lenton, had



Pegs lies in bed and knits happily

sent a present to her Queen. Shortly before Prince Charles was born she submitted a similar coat to the Palace and the birth of Princess Anne was another occasion to prove her ability in knitting. Both were accepted by the Queen, at that time Princess Elizabeth, and her letters of thanks are Pegs' proudest possession. Grateful thanks are due to Pegs for allowing her latest letter to be reproduced.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
21st December, 1959.

Dear Miss O'Bryne,

I write at The Queen's command to thank you for the little coat which you have so kindly made and sent to Her Majesty for her baby.

The Queen was deeply touched that you should have taken such care in making this present so beautifully, and I am to express to you Her Majesty's sincere thanks for your thought for her at this time.

Yours sincerely,
Kathryn Dugdale.
Lady-in-Waiting.

Miss P. O'Bryne,
33, Church Street,
Lenton, Nottingham.

Her mother's remarks on it were: "This has given Pegs something to live for. She has been ill many times and often at death's door but the courage and patience inspired in her by these gestures from the Queen have done a lot to restore her."

(Please turn to foot of next page)

CARL BURROWS

CAST OFF THE FETTERS

The Autobiography of a Dream

BOOK REVIEW

Published by the

REGENT PUBLISHING CO.
CHICAGO.

Illustrated by the author.

Carl Burrows whose autobiography has been named symbolically *Cast Off the Fetters* has undoubtedly succeeded in doing so in his book. He refuses deliberately to accept the helplessness

so organically interwoven in being a physically handicapped child and adult whose tragedy began at the age of three. At that early age he was a victim of polio which determined his personality and outlook on life. The book as well as the writer are released from the emotional reins usually attached to physical handicap. The book seems as if written by a normal individual relating the story of another person's life.

The style and vocabulary are of a conversational nature casting away the literary requirements of a fiction story. What is important here are human facts rather than the dictionary's best words.

The chapter reprinted in our magazine represents the style and atmosphere encountered in reading the book. Our readers will appreciate the abbreviated way it is presented here—the only way, apart from reprinting the whole book, to do justice to its author.

CHAPTER 13

In the northern part of California, high up in the mountains, and located on a little used side road is the tiny town of Washington, a former mining settlement. But in 1937 the place was deserted except for one establishment which served as a hotel, store and Post Office. Empty building and rotten board walks were in evidence and sleepiness was everywhere.

On a fall day in September of 1937, before the air had turned crisp, there rattled through this place an ancient vehicle which created a great deal of noise and fumes. I was the sole occupant of that car on my way to a new job—a job so entirely different from any theretofore held by me. I was to be hoistman in a gold mine.

I was weary, having driven all night. My rattle-trap steed was once a gallant lady but on this trip I had to baby her the

many miles from Southern California. Occasionally I had to stop when she got too hot or when it became expedient to ask for directions. I followed the pavement for hundreds of miles, gradually leaving the larger cities behind and continuing through the historic little towns of Grass Valley and Nevada City until it became necessary to leave the pavement and take to a dirt road.

Although somewhat exhausted from the long drive, my interest quickened as the countryside became greener and less settled. The freshness of this northern part of the state was not lost upon me but met with appreciation, for its vegetation, timber and spaciousness reminded me of Alaska which I had left just three years before.

I stopped at the one occupied building in Washington, asked directions and resumed my journey. In the rear view mirror, I could see the hotel keeper standing on the porch, watching my progress up the dirt road. He was mopping his brow and I guess it was the first time in his life he had ever seen a miner going to work on crutches, for they were visible in the car and I had told him that I was to be hoistman at the Spanish mine.

The car, old and worn out, barely made headway on the steep grade. Hugging the inner side of the road, I crept toward the summit in low gear and, after awhile, reached a clearing on top where a few miners' cabins were located. I crawled out of the steaming wreck slowly and painfully and surveyed the decrepit shacks which represented upper camp. The journey had taken me some twenty-four hours.

So this was it. My lifelong ambition was a bit closer to being realised. Of course, a hole in the ground is a long way from being a sloop out in the middle of the ocean but the transition from brain to brawn was underway. Unrealised by me then, this was to be part of the toughening process that would lead me to the eventual consummation of a glorious ambition—the ownership of a boat.

Just the day before, in Southern California, a telegram had come from my brother, Harry, stating that he had a job for me as a hoistman in the mine. Inasmuch as I was heartily sick of my job, musty affair in a decaying automobile agency where there was not enough activity to give vent to my fierce energy, and, in fact, had announced my intention of quitting two weeks earlier, the wire was the answer to a self-created economic problem. The telegram had come about 11.00 a.m. on a Saturday and stated that I must be there by noon of the next day to get the job. Upon showing it to my boss, not knowing what to do and not wanting to leave him in the lurch, like a good sport, he said that since I was leaving anyway in a few days and had the new bookkeeper nearly broken in, it would be a shame to miss the opportunity and for me to go. Breathing a great sigh of relief, I called up the bank

(Please turn over)

(Continued from previous page)

Today, although bedridden, Pegs is happy and well, and lovingly cared for by Miss Helen Ryman who has been nursing her for 29 years. She knows Pegs as a wonderfully happy person, intelligent and interested in many things and particularly in her knitting. She started to teach her in Ireland where, together with her three sisters, they were evacuated. Her pupil seems to have found it very difficult at first having so little use in her hands and it was indeed five years before she was really proficient. Now she thoroughly enjoys it, as she can do it really well.

Thrilled at the news of the baby Prince, Pegs was able to

add many newspaper cuttings to her scrap-books of the Royal Family.

The visit of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh to Nottingham's quincenary celebrations in June, 1949, fostered the interest in the Royal Family. The town officials gave Pegs a ringside seat of the ceremony at the Council House, insisting she should have a good view. No less than a squad of policemen carried her wheelchair up the steps to the entrance.

One cannot help but appreciate the devotion a member of our Society has shown and her prize is definitely the satisfaction derived from her achievement.

so that they would let me in after closing hours to draw out my meager savings of some fifty dollars, gave the new book-keeper the rest of the gruesome details, went home, packed and was on my way to 3.00 p.m.

Meanwhile, the mine superintendent who had made the offer of the job, had had some time in which to do a bit of thinking. What will the owners think of my hiring a handicapped person? Will our insurance cover? What if he gets hurt? And it took him three days to make the decision.

Well, he had an awful time making up his mind and I suffered right along with him, but for an entirely different reason. I chased him up and down those mountains for the three days. He had the advantage for he knew the shortcuts. Lower camp to upper camp. I would get to the top in time to see his shirt tails going down the hill. He went thataway, podner! Upper camp to lower camp. Same story. I tell you, there was a great deal of dust raised on that mile and one-half of narrow, dirt road during those three days.

However, after wearing him down to a frazzle by following him around until he could not show up anywhere but what there was a potential hoistman with his canvas work gloves on, he came through with the job. In addition to the job, he personally delivered two big truckloads of firewood to my cabin door. It was green, wet and knotty but his heart was in the right place.

Another factor which helped in obtaining the job was my brother's hurried up trip to town to prime the examining physician. I sat on the edge of a table and he hit my knee with a small hammer. Knowing that something was supposed to happen, I squirmed around until the leg kicked a little. At least he had not broken it.

"I believe this man is capable of holding down a job at which he can sit."

Being good at sitting made it a cinch and his statement was a tribute to Harry's diplomacy, my ingenuity and his own common sense. He was just a young doctor but there was an old man's twinkle in his eyes.

The lower camp of the mine included the main diggings, the mill, the field office and the machine shop. Upper camp lay by a twisting, narrow, bad road just one and one-half miles away and up. In upper camp, there was a small sawmill, a nearly depleted hole, a cluster of cabins and a broken down hoist. I was given a doorless, windowless cabin and the hoist.

From the cabin to the hoisthouse, which was built on the side of the mountain, was a distance of about three blocks via road or less as the goat climbs. To make the daily trip to work, it was necessary to go past the cabins and thence through a long cut in the bank. The cut, through which ran a road, invariably became flooded with each hard rain.

If the cut were flooded too deeply at a certain point—say, anything over a foot—then instead of wading through I had to climb up the side of the bank, over a large log and under a pipe line. No wonder the super had his doubts.

Drinking water had to be carted from a pure mountain spring four mile away and like the rest of the miners, I soon had a collection of new five-gallon oil tins and jugs plus about a dozen of one-gallon capacity. For the sake of convenience, I built a frame on rockers for the heavy five-gallon glass jug so that by removing its cork and tilting it forward, a cup or pan could be filled easily. Occasionally someone would run out of water and the experience of having an improvident neighbour borrow a cup full was a new one to me. Water for washing clothes came from a tank filled by pumping from the mine. Whenever the water became clear enough, some woman in camp would sound the signal and presently washed clothes sprouted out all over the place. Cooking fuel consisted of the

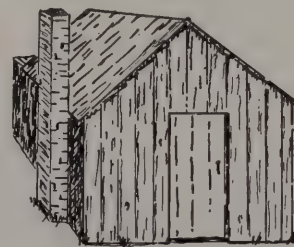
slabs from the sawing operations and of plumbing there was none. I did not even have a privy but depended upon dark nights and nocturnal visits to the woods.

With the help of my brother I found a window for the cabin and made two doors out of green, freshly sawed lumber. After awhile, as the wood dried, great cracks appeared and ventilation was no problem. The cabin walls were inch thin planks and provided hardly any insulation against the cold.

The woodshed was fastened to the rear of the cabin with about a two foot drop to its floor level and the rear cabin door led there and no place else. There was no exit from the shed. To overcome the inconvenience of the drop in the floor, I hinged the rear door at the bottom and rigged up a simple hoist for lowering and raising it. This made a crude but effective ramp and it was easier to bring wood into the cabin. When the door was up, my footprints showed plainly leading to the ceiling and one neighbour wondered how I managed such a feat. Since I have difficulty in carrying anything while walking, I generally stood at the door and threw the wood at the stove a few feet away. Sometimes the impact of a small log would jar the stove pipe loose but no permanent harm was done.

Buying a roll of cheap lineoleum, I laid it on the rough board floor, greatly improving the cabin's appearance. Harry lifted a rusty three-legged cook stove from somewhere and a spring cot. I built a frame for a sink and attached a hose so that it would drain into a dry gully nearby. To complete the homey atmosphere, I hinged a table to the wall and built a three legged stool which always tipped over whenever I sat on it. The rest of the furnishings were quite simple, consisting mainly of packing cases nailed to the wall to serve as pantry and cabinets. A frying pan, baking pan, dishpan and about two sets of assorted cutlery, cups and plates served my every need.

The cabin soon developed a personality, set as it was in a rustic surrounding of trees and dirt. When the rains came, I discovered another side of its character. The roof leaked in fifteen places by actual count. It was a 45 degree corrugated iron affair and the mucker who built it drove his nails in the valleys instead of on the ridges, thus forming a perfect guide for the water to loose nails. At first I attempted to fix it, but after an occasion of getting up there and not being able to get down until a miner came along to help, possibly an hour or two later, I solved the problem by spotting my furniture between the leaks and mopping the floor after each rain.



SCHOOL BENEFITS



Please give FOR CRAIG-Y-PARC
the lovely school
near Cardiff for
spastic children

RUN BY THE NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

**HELP SPASTIC YOUNGSTERS TO
RISE ABOVE THEIR HANDICAP**

One of the beneficiaries of the Cardiff
inter-college Rag Appeal for 1960

**FROM
RAG
WEEK**

The poster which was prominently displayed by the students during Rag Week

The policeman on point duty was horrified. Walking slowly towards him in the midst of the mid-morning traffic were three beautiful brides. Wearing white bridal gowns with veils and with bridesmaids in attendance they each stepped up to him, curtsied—and made a special “leap year” proposal.



Courtesy: Western Mail & Echo

This unusual incident, shown later that day in B.B.C. television, was one of many stunts organised by Cardiff students to publicise their Rag Week (February 16th-20th), half the proceeds from which are being given to Craig-y-Parc School for Spastics, near Cardiff.

The school will not know how much it is to receive until the Rag collection has been audited, but the students expect to be able to share several thousands of pounds between this

year's charities, Craig-y-Parc and the British Empire Cancer Campaign, both of whom are being sent interim cheques of £1,000.

The school has also been given a large model locomotive for its adventure playground. The engine, made by students of metallurgy and fuel technology, was part of the winning float in the Rag Procession, highlight of the week. The theme of the procession was television, and the locomotive represented the programme “Wagon Train.” It has revolving wheels and a handsome brass bell, and completes the range of vehicles in the children's playground, where there is already a double-decker bus, a boat, a tractor and an aeroplane.

Asked about the students' charity appeal, Mr. Bob Price, 22-year-old chairman of the Cardiff Inter-College Rag Committee, said: “We choose Craig-y-Parc because it is a very worthwhile cause and we always like to support a local charity as well as a national one. Hundreds of students helped to sell our Rag newspaper ‘Wail’ and magazine ‘Outrage’—we went as far afield as Newport, Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare.

“And as well as collecting money for the spastics school and cancer campaign we think we've also made their work more widely known. Our appeal had a lot of publicity in the newspapers and on television, and we had thousands of posters around Cardiff.”

Rag Week was not all hard work. Lectures for the students were cancelled and there were dances and parties every night. But Craig-y-Parc was not forgotten. The headmistress, Mrs. Kearslake, and the deputy head, Mr. Jones, were guests of the students at a Rag Ball at the City Hall, Cardiff, where the Rag Queen was crowned, and on another occasion the school lent their two brakes to take equipment to a midnight barbecue on a lonely beach at Southerndown, 25 miles from Cardiff.

Mr. Price summed up Rag Week: “We had plenty of fun besides doing quite a good job.”

Group Alterations

New Secretary:

WARRINGTON & DISTRICT GROUP of
the WELFARE OF SPASTICS

MISS J. ASTBURY,
24 Bedford Street,
Stockton Heath,
Warrington.

★

Honorary Officials:

BLACKPOOL & FYLDE SPASTIC
GROUP

Chairman:

R. C. HALL, Esq.
Vice-Chairman:
F. W. ALLCOCK, Esq.

Treasurer:

MRS. E. BARNES.

Secretary:

E. PEMBERTON, Esq.,
Manager, Midland Bank.

Asst. Secretary:

D. R. RIMMER, Esq.,
Midland Bank.

Honorary Advisory Committee:

DR. D. W. WAUCHOB, M.B., B.Ch.,
D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health for Blackpool.

DR. M. F. JOELL, M.B., B.Ch.,
Inspector for Schools for Blackpool.

J. A. BUTLER, Esq.,
Welfare Officer for Blackpool.

R. J. F. WHYTE, Esq.,
North Regional Officer for N.S.S.

★

Change of telephone number:

SOUTHEND & DISTRICT GROUP

Secretary:

MRS. EVANS. SOUTHEND 47090.

Page Twenty-two

A cold? Listless? 'One Degree Under'?



Not
any
more!

*"When I'm One Degree Under
'Aspro' soon puts me right!"*

'Aspro's so safe—I can take it every day, twice a day or more often if I need it and it always makes me feel better. We've always had 'Aspro' in our house for all our aches and pains—colds and 'flu and headaches and Dad's rheumatism. I think 'Aspro's wonderful".

*'Aspro' does not harm the heart
—its active ingredient is used in
hospitals all over the world.*
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A Nicholas
Product

Classified Advertisement

Required—Housemother (30-45 years) complete charge of 13-year-old boy, mobile, clean habits, backward speech. Private London household. Live in. Good salary. Reference. Phone SPEEdwell 6520.



SPASTICS NEWS, MARCH, 1960

N.S.S. Regions

Disposition of the Groups

Eastern Region

(Harry G. Knight,
Temp. Office,
37 Great Park Street,
Wellingborough, Northants).

Chesterfield and District Spastics Society
Corby and District Branch
Derby and District Branch of NSS
Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Spastics Society
Ipswich Branch
Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics Society
Lincoln Branch
Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics Group
Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association
Northampton and County Branch
Nottingham Friends of Spastics Group
(Sub-Committee of Nottingham District Cripples Guild)
Peterborough and District Group
Scunthorpe and District Spastic Society
Stamford Branch

Midland Region

(Officer to be appointed in 1960)
Cannock Chase Spastic Association
Coventry and District Spastics Society
Dudley and District Spastic Group
Ludlow and District Spastics Society
North Staffordshire Spastic Association
Shrewsbury and District Spastics Group
Stafford and District Spastics Association
Worcester and District Branch

North Region

(Roland J. F. Whyte
N.S.S. Trevelyan Chambers,
7 Boar Lane, Leeds, 1).
Barnsley and District Association
Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society
Blackburn and District Group
Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group
Bollington, Macclesfield and District Clinic for Spastic Children
Bolton and District Group
Bradford and District Branch
Castleford Spastics Group
Chester and District Spastics Association
Crewe and District Spastics Society
Crosby and District Spastics Society
Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society
Darlington and District Spastics Society
Dewsbury and District Spastics Society
Furness and District Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society
Goole and District Spastics Association
Halifax and District Spastic Group

Hull Group, The Friends of the Spastics Society in Hull and District
Lancaster, Morecambe and District Group
Leeds and District Spastics Society
Oldham and District Spastic Society
Pontefract and District Spastics Society
Preston and District Group
Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society
Rossendale Spastic Group
Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society
Sheffield and District Spastics Society
Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society
Stockport and District Spastics Society
Sunderland and District Spastics Society
Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics
Urmston and District Group
Warrington and District Group for the Welfare of Spastics
Widnes Spastic Fellowship Group
York and District Spastics Group

Northern Home Counties Region

(Robert G. Lemarie,
Woodlands,
1 Melbourne Road, Bushey, Herts).
Bedford and District Branch of NSS
Bishop's Stortford Group, Herts Spastics Society
Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society
Clacton and District Group
Colchester and District Group
East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society
East London Spastic Society
Epping Forest and District Branch of NSS
Essex Group
Harlow and District Branch
Hatfield Group, Herts Spastics Society
Hemel Hempstead Group, Herts Spastics Society
Hitchin and District Friends of Spastics
Ilford and District Spastics Association
Luton and District Spastics Group
Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group
North London Area Association of Parents and Friends of Spastics
North-West London Group
Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society
Reading and District Spastics Welfare Society
Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society
Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics Society
South-West Middlesex Group
St. Albans and District Group, Herts Spastics Society
Watford and District Group, Herts Spastics Society

Welwyn Garden City and District Group,
Herts Spastics Society
Wycombe and District Spastics Society

South-East Region

(Simon T. Langley
137 Upper Grosvenor Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent).
Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastic Society
Brighton, Hove and District Branch
Bromley and District Spastics Group
Central Surrey Group
Chichester Branch
Croydon and District Branch
East Sussex Group (Hastings and District)
Folkestone and District Branch of NSS
Isle of Wight Group
Maidstone Area Spastic Group
Medway Towns Branch of NSS
North Hants and West Surrey Group
North Surrey Group (Kingston)
North-West Kent Spastic Group
North-West Surrey Group
Portsmouth and District Spastic Society
Southampton and District Spastics Association
South-East London Group
South-East Surrey (Redhill) Spastics Group
South London Group
South-West London and District Group
South-West Surrey Group
Thanet Group
Tunbridge Wells Area Group

Welsh Region (including Mon.)

(Officer to be appointed in 1960)
Cardiff and District Spastics Association
Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society
Conway and District Branch of NSS
Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Society
Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society
Pontypridd and District Group of NSS
Swansea and District Spastics Association

Western Region

(John J. Walsh
St. John House,
Park Street, Taunton, Somerset).
Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics Association
Bristol Spastics Association
Cheltenham Spastic Aid Association
Dame Hannah Rogers School Parents Association
Plymouth Spastic (CP) Association
Swindon and District Spastic Society

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NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

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NOTE:

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for long term
periods*

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Pats. Pending Reg. Design No. 894,608

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Physically Handicapped if you use a
“WORKACHAIR” designed by the
husband of a Polio Victim*

This unique chair is uncapsizable, is fitted with a hydraulically operated seat, which can be raised a maximum of 10 inches . . . at the turn of a knob the seat is lowered gently to any desired height; it is fitted with an efficient brake operating on both wheels and ensures complete safety.

As the “WORKACHAIR” can be used out of doors also, shopping for the housewife becomes a new adventure.

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PRICE £40 ex Works or £5 Deposit, balance over 24 months

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(BLOCK LETTERS, PLEASE)

Address.....

3/60S